

Family Education Newsletter

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

MAY 2004

TEACHERS ARE OUR HEROES!

"May 4 will be National Teacher Day, a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. It is always celebrated the Tuesday of the first full week of May, so the actual date varies each year. The whole week -- this year May 2-8 -- is designated Teacher Appreciation Week by the [National PTA](#).

"Teachers are true heroes in our communities, who through their dedication to children, work millions of small miracles every day. And the vast majority of teachers in the United States are NEA members, proud to be advocates for children, public education, and their profession. Additionally, there are hundreds of teachers and education support professionals actively serving in the U.S. military.

"National Teacher Day focuses on the contributions teachers make to help children succeed in school and in life. Public schools are where children learn to be Americans. School is where they learn the Pledge of Allegiance and the U.S. Constitution. It provides students their first opportunity to vote. It is where we all learn that wherever we are from, we are united as Americans.

History

The origins of Teacher Day are murky. Around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day.

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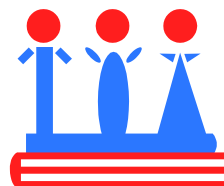
TESTING... TESTING... TESTING...

KSD, and all other public schools, will be giving students the state-mandated assessments over the next few weeks. It is often a stressful time for students, teachers, and families. Nancy Mann has given us a Tool Kit for Test Taking:

"Of course, testing is part of education. For some test taking is a natural by-product of learning. Many students sail through most test-taking situations without much stress. However, some students find test taking to be like negotiating a minefield. They never know when anxiety will cause their brains to "shut down," causing them to forget much of what they've learned. The four 4 R's of test taking, offered by Parent Connection, are ways you can help your child feel confident about taking tests throughout his or her school years.

Receptive. Attitude is everything. Help your child have a receptive

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Supporting our children through home-school communication.

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Inserts:

"Stranger Danger"

KSD 2004-05 Calendar

Mother's Day

The Kentucky School for the Deaf's FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER is published monthly during the school year.

Clip art is downloaded from
Microsoft at
dgl.microsoft.com/?CAG=1

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M/F/D

Visit the KSD Homepage at
www.ksd.k12.ky.us

To contact the KSD Family Education Newsletter Editor, Pat Bruce, call the school at 859-239-7017, ext 2503 (TTY or Relay Service); email her at pbruce@ksd.k12.ky.us, or write to
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PO Box 27
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HIGH SCHOOL and MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

GIRLS and BOYS



May 3	* Danville Bate Middle School	at EKU
May 4	South Laurel High School	away
May 5	* Frankfort Middle School	away
May 10	* Lake Cumberland Classic	at Somerset
May 11	Rockcastle Co. High School Invitational	away
May 12	* Model Middle School	at EKU
May 18	Harrodsburg High School Invitational	away
May 24-28	KHSAA Regional Track Meet	at KSU
June 1-5	KHSAA State Track Championship	at EKU

* Middle School only

ALL MEETS ARE AT 5:00 pm

GO KSD Colonels!!!

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Teachers Are Our Heroes! *continued from Page 1*

"NEA along with its Kansas and Indiana state affiliates and the Dodge City (Kan.) local lobbied Congress to create a national day celebrating teachers. Congress declared March 7, 1980, as National Teacher Day for that year only.

"NEA and its affiliates continued to observe Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March until 1985, when NEA and the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. The NEA Representative Assembly then voted to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Day."

THANK A TEACHER OR EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSON TODAY!

Reprinted from the National Education Association home page

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Tool Kit for Test Taking *continued from Page 1*

"attitude toward school in general and test taking in particular. Emphasize that test taking is just one part of the learning experience. Explain how a test and a measurement are similar. Just as you measure a child's growth, a test measures how much he or she has learned.

- **"Relaxed.** Focus your child on doing his or her best when preparing for and taking a test. Make sure that your child knows that you are confident that he or she will do well on the test. When your child talks about how hard a certain test is going to be, tell him or her that's why preparation is so important. If he or she pays attention in class, reviews notes, stays current on reading assignments and studies well, he or she should be prepared for the test.
- **"Ready.** Become knowledgeable about the tests your child takes. Tests assess a child's knowledge at a particular point in time. Be sure that your child has completed the day-by-day schoolwork upon which tests are based. Be informed about the testing at each grade level and pay particular attention to those grades where the children take standardized state and national tests. For state and national tests, find out how the school prepares students and what help parents can provide.
- **"Rest.** When a test is to be given, make sure your child gets plenty of sleep the night before, eats a good breakfast, and attends school on test day."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KSD?

- ❖ **KSD's 2004-2005 school calendar** has been approved. A copy is included with this newsletter. Teachers report for Professional Development on Tuesday, August 3rd and students register on Sunday, August 8th with their first day of classes being on Monday, August 9th.
- ❖ This past month, we had a speaker from the Child Connection, out of Louisville, talk to our elementary and middle school students about **"Stranger Danger."** She brought dogs with her to teach the kids how to protect themselves from rape, kidnapping, etc. We have included a handout for parents with this newsletter (see the back of the 2004-05 calendar)
- ❖ We had a group of elementary students from **Casey County** who are learning ASL visit us a few weeks ago. This is the second time this year that this group has visited. It was sunny so the kids played outside on the playground first. Then, everyone came inside and visited the dorms for a while. We offered them a snack of Kool-aid and cookies before taking them downstairs to the Primaryville area for several hot rounds of the elephant game. The visiting students and their staff all laughed and enjoyed themselves as they learned how to play a deaf game! We're hoping to visit their school in the future.
- ❖ Walker Hall students (dorm students and day students) participated in **Bluegrass Youth Soccer Association** (BYSA) and Roger McCowan is their head coach and Mary Peavler is asst. coach. Roger knew nothing about soccer as well as Mary. Mary got a soccer book from the public library and Roger did his homework. Also the high school boys volunteered to help with the soccer practice and attended the games. They are Kerry Helton, Robert Phillips, and Matthew Spainhoward. Our first game was scheduled for March 25th at the Millennium Park. The KSD Team won the first game by the score of 6 to one. Tony Long, Jr., and CJ Hawkins made 3 goals each. All the kids played hard and did their best on the field. They had a taste of winning the first game and were thrilled about the winning. On April 1st, unfortunately the KSD team lost by the score of 8 to 1. Although the weather was so cold and cloudy on that day, the kids tried their best. Andrew Akers made one goal for our team. Our next game is on April 15th at the Millennium Park at 6:45 p.m. The schedule for the entire games are on April 22, at 6:00, May 6 at 6:00, May 13 at 5:30.

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IT'S NEW!

- ❖ CNN.com recently had this article: "After 23 years of work by some 60 people, a ministry group for the deaf has finished translating the entire **New Testament into American Sign Language**. Translators appear on camera, signing the New Testament's 7,959 verses. After editing is completed, the translation should be available on DVD and videotape this summer... The Council Bluffs, Iowa Deaf Missions plans to continue working on its Old Testament translation. So far, it has translated 13 of the 39 books." *Saturday, March 20, 2004*
- ❖ **"Talking With Your Hands, Listening With Your Eyes"** by Gabriel Grayson is a new sign language resource. It uses photographs to teach ASL signs. It also includes information about Deaf Culture, the history of signing, and other interesting topics. The pictures are grouped by category in an easy-to-follow format. \$29.95 from Square One Publishers Call toll-free: 877-900-2665
- ❖ Welcome to **Crayola.com**! Go to crayola.com and register for free. You can tap into more than 100 years of art and education expertise with creative activities. You can create cards (and send them via email), find puzzles, games, activity pages, decorations, color trivia, art techniques, gift ideas, and much more. This is a good resource for families on those "I'm bored!" summer days...



SUMMER TRANSITIONS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Jefferson Technical College (Louisville) is currently working with the Kentucky Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Kentucky SOTAC (PEC) to host a Summer Transitions Empowerment Program (STEP) for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Please mark your calendars for August 6-8. Contact James Kolb (email James.Kolb@kctcs.net or call: 502-213-5333) at Jefferson Technical College for more information

SUMMER TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parents, don't let your students waste valuable time this summer. Use this time to encourage them to think about what they want to do when they leave KSD. There is a world of opportunity out there! Do they want to go to a technical school, internship, college or start a business of their own. Many students have had exposure to "entrepreneurial" (having your own business) opportunities this year at KSD. Some have sold birdhouses they made, flowers they grew or baked goods along with many other products. Please talk to your students about these experiences this summer and encourage them to "try out" some work experiences whether it is a newspaper route, working in a restaurant or the local hardware store or creating something to sell at a yard sale or pick up aluminum cans for recycling. Giving children a taste of a work experience is the best way to help them develop their self-value and understand the pleasures that can come from a job well done. You are the key to career education this summer - don't miss the special opportunity to talk to your child about their future.



A recent article in Career Parent Magazine reported Oprah Winfrey as stating "Luck is when preparation and opportunity meet. They also pointed out that it is never too soon to begin talking about future careers with children. The article outlined six things that parents can do to raise "lucky" kids. 1. Encourage entrepreneurial efforts from an early age. 2. Focus on developing personal responsibility and a strong work ethic. 3. Stress that the only job security available lies in personal competency and a good reputation. 4. Develop responsible money management skills. 5. Talk about self-employment as a career opportunity. 6. Help your teen find mentors in a variety of work settings.

Judy Burkhead, KSD Career Teacher

SUMMER READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Pick a time of day that is convenient for you to read with your child everyday. It can be only 10 to 15 minutes per day.
- It isn't necessary for your child to read to you. For younger children you can discuss the pictures in the book, and if you don't know the signs for some of the pictures, ask your child to teach you the signs. As much as you can, tell your child the story. You don't have to read it to them word for word.
- For older children, you can share a daily reading time with them. While you read a newspaper, magazine or book, they can read a book. When they don't know a word, they can ask you to tell them the sign for the word. After they are done reading, you can ask them to tell you what happened in the book.
- Set up a reward system for reading everyday. Depending on the age of the child, maybe they could earn points for a trip with you to a park or restaurant, or any other reward that you think they would value.



Call Jennie Leith
859-239-7017, ext. 2420,
or 859-748-6174, if you
would like to borrow books
for the summer.



AROUND THE STATE...

- West Kentucky - Tuesday, May 25... The Silent Dinner Sign Language Practice Group will meet at Mr. Gatti's on Us Hwy 68 E in Benton. Starts at 6:00 pm. Bring a friend and contact Paula Humphreys so she can make the reservations: 270-443-3055 or humphreys@ksd.k12.ky.us
- Olive Hill area - Saturday, May 8th - the second Family Learning Get Away will be held at Olive Hill Elementary School. And...
- Leitchfield area - Saturday, May 22nd - this is the third and final Family Learning Get Away. The cost is only \$20 for the whole family. You'll have fun and learn a lot, too! Both events are planned for families with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing regardless of where your child goes to school. Contact Cathy Howle for more information: 888-786-5551 or chowle@ksd.k12.ky.us
- OPEN CAPTIONED MOVIES - The movie, "Scobby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" will be shown at Regal Hamburg Pavillion at the intersection of Man O' War Blvd and I-75 on May 30th and 31st. For showtimes, parents can call the theater at 859-264-8341.
- N.KY/KSD Regional Program - Our 4th graders did a unit this month on the Kentucky Derby. They wrote 'dream' stories of what it would be like to win the Derby and learned about the jockeys and this major part of Kentucky's history and curriculum. This activity connected to their core content of studies of KY History. They culminated their unit with a simulated Derby of their own, each making his own unique jockey shirt, colors, and thoroughbred.



LOOKING AHEAD...



June July..... August

Saturday, June 12 - Family Learning Vacation at KSD. This fun-filled weekend is being planned for students of any age and their entire families. It's not too late to register, but you'd better hurry! Contact Pat Bruce at KSD for more information.

Sunday, August 8 - Registration at KSD for the 2004-05 school year.

Sunday, September 5 - DeaFestival - Kentucky The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing invite you to join them in Louisville for this cultural festival that celebrates the arts and performances of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

KSD PTCA Meeting

Thursday, May 6

6:30-8:30

The KSD PTCA invites you to join them on Thursday, May 6th. They will meet in the Walker Hall Cafeteria with the KSD Alumni Association. These two groups are planning to revive the Pancake and Sausage Day activities this coming fall. If you have ideas about food or crafts and other special events, please bring these with you.

Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

If you want to sleep in the Brady Hall Guest Apartments, contact Pat Bruce at KSD.



MAY CALENDAR



May 3 - May 14 - CATS Testing

Wednesday, May 5 - Toddler-Time Playgroup in Walker Hall at 1:00

Thursday, May 6 - KSD PTCA meeting with the Alumni Association to plan Pancake and Sausage Day for this Fall; Walker Hall Cafeteria; 6:30 pm.

Saturday, May 8 - Family Learning Get Away at Olive Hill Elementary School; 9:00 am

Thursday, May 20 - KSD AWARDS PROGRAMS
Walker Hall Star Day: 10:00 (cafeteria)
Middle School: 11:00 (Grow Hall)
High School Luncheon: 12:00 (Grow Hall)

GRADUATION: Thursday, May 20, 2:00
Thomas Gym on KSD's campus

Saturday, May 22 - Family Learning Get Away at Wilkey Elementary School in Leitchfield; 9:00 am

FAMILY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER
Kentucky School for the Deaf
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